AN

EPISTLE

By way of

TESTIMONY,

To the

Friends of Manchester

And thereabours,

Given forth shortly after the Death of my dear Daughter,

MARY MOSS,

WIFE of

ISAAC MOSS of *Manchester*,

Who departed this Life

The XXIX of the 11*th* Month, 1692.

With a Testimony concerning my dear Wife Mary Watson, who since departed this Life the 3d of the 9th Month, 1694.

By *SAMUEL WATSON*.

Together with a few words written by Elizabeth Moss concerning her dear Mother.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the Death of his Saints, Psalm 116. 15.

And I heard a voice from Heaven, saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them, Revelations, 14. 13.

LONDON:

Printed for *Tho. Northcott* in *George-Yard* in *Lombard-Street*, 1694.

An Epiſtle by way of Teſtimony to the Friends of Manchester *and thereabouts: Given forth ſhortly after the Death of my Dear Daughter* Mary Moſs.

DEar Friends of *Manchester* and thereabouts, and all who are concerned for the proſperity of the Truth as it is in Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and Saviour; it lives upon me to write this Epiſtle of Memorial concerning our Dear Daughter *Mary*, of whoſe departure out of this Life you have a great Loſs; as certainly her dear Parents and Relations, her Husband and tender ſmall Babes have, which ſhe left behind her; a loſs I ſay unexpreſſible, whom ſhe was in her life time a comfort and help to: But the infinite wiſe God in whoſe Hand we all are, hath ordered theſe things according to his divine Will and Pleaſure, ſometimes for the ſpeedy deliverance of his tribulated Children, in the Work of their Redemption, from all viſibles, that the Joy ſet before them of that which is Eternal, they may, without Interruption, poſſeſs; ſo that though ſhe be removed or departed, who was a comfort to us in her Life-time, and the loſs of whom is great, yet the Gain to her is incomparable, and our Peace and great ſatisfaction is in full aſſurance, That ſhe is gathered with the wiſe Virgins gone before her, into the Bridegroom's Chamber of Eternal Joy and Felicity. And pretious in the ſight of the Lord is the death of all his Saints, and her Memorial ſhall be had in everlaſting Remembrance.

I cannot ſufficiently expreſs this tender Branches amiableneſs, her inward Beauty and glorious Garments which ſhe had put on, as one of the King of *Zion*'s Daughters, whoſe Royal Robes of Righteouſneſs, Holineſs, and true Charity, did ſhine; not only to the gladding the Members of the ſame Body, but to thoſe who, as yet, are Strangers to the Commonwealth of *Iſrael*, that in the univerſal love God has to all, in that he would not the Death of any Sinner, ſo ſhe as a Hand-maid of the Lord, manifeſted her love and Law of kindneſs to all, *exceeding many others*. The Anointing Oyl ſhe was inwardly beautified with, which gave a ſweet ſmelling Savour to the Houſe-hold of Faith, and at ſeaſons, heavenly Breathings, prayers and praiſes ſprung in her, which was as Incenſe aſcending to the Throne of Glory: And many have been comforted in thoſe ſprings of Life, that ſtreamed from that Well of Salvation opened in her: So ſhe had received from her Spiritual *Joſhua*, not only the South-Land of a good prepared Heart and Ground, but obtained the upper and nether Springs of living Water to the making fruitful this tender Branch and weak Veſſel.

And as ſhe was not laviſh, or ſpending her Portion where ſhe ought not, ſhe was not ſparing, neither withheld the good Things which ſhe was made Partaker of from the Remnant that loved the Lord Jeſus, with whom her Unity ſtood, and Fellowſhip in the Covenant of Life, ſealed up in that pure Spirit of Adoption, which ſhe had received in him, and through the Pourings in of his abundant love, who is the *Alpha* and *Omega*.

She was of a bearing Spirit, and did not love any contention, willing rather to ſuffer great Trouble and bear Her Exerciſes patiently, than to lay open the weakneſs of others; ſo that Love in the Truth was ſetled in her Boſom, rather to cover a multitude of Faults, than to make one.

And this Labour of true Love, which hates the Garment ſpotted in the Fleſh, is the true Work, to help and gather

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out of the World the Snares and Pollutions thereof, Thoſe that are yet unеſcaped.

She laboured to reach to the little Seed of the Kingdom where it did lye as buried under the Earth, that the Power ſhe had partaken of to work her Redemption, they might alſo come to feel, and be made ſenſible of what ſhe witneſſed, of that inward Circumciſion in Spirit from her Minority; ſo that little of the Glory of this World was ever-pleaſant in her Eye, but her Eye was opened to behold and look after thoſe things which are Celeſtial and Eternal. And the Candle which was lighted in her did ſhine forth to others; ſo that it is well for them that are left behind, (that obſerved and loved her godly Converſation Coupled with Fear) to follow her Example; and now to wait, while a day is given, to keep in the Path and Steps of this godly Woman, who was a Pattern of Purity, Patience, Sincerity, Poverty of Spirit and true Humility, eſchewing that which comes from an evil Root of Bitterneſs and Uncleanneſs, (which is too much brought forth in ſome of thoſe that profeſs Godlineſs) ſo that a Branch of the true Vine, ſhe was manifeſt to be in her day and ſeaſon, abiding in him who is the true and antient Vine, receiving Supply and Refreſhment from him who made her bring forth much Fruit, wherein our Heavenly Father is glorified, for not by the profeſſion only, But, as our Saviour ſaid, *by their Fruits ye ſhall know them.*

Her Converſation being in Heaven, the Fruits of the Spirit of God were brought forth in her, (*viz.*) Love, Meekneſs Temperance, Chaſtity, Brotherly Kindneſs; and above all, ſhe had Charity, which is the Bond of Perfectneſs.

I can now leave her in the Arms of her bleſſed Saviour, at whoſe Feet ſhe kept in the days of her Pilgrimage, and waſhed his Feet Spiritually with the Tears of Joy, and wiped them as with the Hairs of her Head

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in pure Obedience, nothing being too dear to paſs thorow or to do for him that had done ſo much for her; *O happy art thou Daughter of Zion, that is thus taken away from the evil that is to come, and now crowned with Immortal Glory, which no Spirit of Darkneſs can bereave thee of.* To him be the Glory who hath done this Work for thy poor Soul, whoſe glorious Reſurrection in Chriſt will appear in the Kingdom of Heaven, and a remnant who Love the Lord (and loved her) are preſſing on to obtain a ſhare in the ſame glory and dignity with our Heavenly Father and High-prieſt of our Profeſſion, to whom be Praiſes aſcribed for all his mercies continually.

And now, my dear Friends, you that are left behind, who were ſometimes converſant with this dear Servant and Follower of the Lamb, who was a ſweet-ſmelling Savour unto you, that have received the Truth in the love of it, and in meaſure walk in it, this Council and Admonition I give unto you: Keep in the Holy Watch, in the holy ſtay'dneſs of Mind, that you may be ready to anſwer the Mind of him, who is the God of *Abraham Iſaac* and *Jacob*, that hath called you out of Darkneſs into his Marvailous Light. and liberty of his Son Chriſt Jeſus; let no other liberty in your Converſation be given way to than what is purchaſed by the pretious Blood of the Lamb, by which you are bought, ſo that you may find in Spirit continually a Standard lifted up in you, to the reſiſting of all Evil: and that you are not your own, but are bought with a Price, a Holy Engagement is upon you to ſerve the Lord in your Souls, Bodies, and Spirits, which are his; This one thing keeping to, will keep you in a Holy and humble frame of Life and Converſation, in the daily Croſs as becomes the Goſpel, and in the feeling of the Love of God, ſhed abroad in your Hearts, the Branch of Righteouſneſs will ſpring forth in you, and as a well-watered Garden and a Spring of Water, whoſe Waters

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fail not, will your Souls be to bring forth Fruits of Love, godly Patience and holy Obedience to God, in a dayly self-denial and taking up the Croſs which Crucifies to the World the Vanities and Luſts thereof, and ſlays the Enmity on the Croſs; ſo will more and more Branches appear, which ſpring's from the true Root and Ground of Holineſs, where every little one that keeps in the Holy fear, may partake of the Sap and Nouriſhment which will make you proſperous, and witneſs a daily growth in the heavenly Life.

And I exhort you all, to give all diligence *to make your calling and Election ſure*, (that an entrance you may know into the Kingdom) and add to *your Faith* (which you have received in Chriſt Jeſus the Author of it) *Vertue*; *and to Vertue, Knowledg*; *and to Knowledg, Temperance*; *and to Temperance, Patience*; *and to patience, Godlineſs*; *and to Godlineſs, Brotherly kindneſs*; *and to Brotherly kindneſs, Charity*; which is the Mark of Chriſtianity, and the Birth which inherits the Kingdom, and thoſe that abide in theſe things, they cannot be barren or unfruitful in the Work of the Vineyard, God hath called them into, but are always ready and prepared with the wiſe Virgins, to enter into the Bridegrooms Chamber, not knowing how ſoon the laſt call may be to any of us, that are yet remaining in theſe Tabernacles of Clay; but keep ſo Waiting, and in Faithfulneſs, that the Crown of Glory we may obtain, with this pretious, obedient and dear Siſter, that is gone before us.

And be not weary in well-doing, and meeting often together; and as you keep in a holy Thirſt and hungring after Righteouſneſs, you will partake of a daily Watering at that living Stream, and feeding on that living Bread, which comes down from Heaven, without which you cannot live and walk up to God, nor keep in that which is acceptable unto him; as this dear Plant of our heavenly Father kept to the end of her days.

So

So unto the great Shepherd and Bishop of our Souls, do I commit you all, to be led, guided and taught by him, who is the Comforter and Spirit of Truth, which leads into all Truth. I communicate this in tender Love to you all, tho' but a small number, and one of them being taken from you, who was great in Love, but little in her own Eyes. The Lord, with whom all things are possible, will give an Encrease, and enlarge your Borders in the Truth, in his own time. So in a Holy salutation of Love and Good will to you all, I bid you farewell, and rest,

Your dear Friend

and Brother in the Truth,

S. WATSON.

A short

A short Testimony concerning my dear Wife, Mary Watson, *who departed this life the 2d. of the 9th Month,* 1694.

Dear Friends,

THis dear Companion and Fellow-labourer in the Gospel of life and Salvation, who was a dear and tender Wife to me, given by the great God of Heaven and Earth to be a Yoke-fellow to me, not only in Body, but in Spirit; and though she was attended and afflicted with many Infirmities of Body, yet great hath been our Travails and Exercises in Spirit together, in Prayer and Supplication to God, who hath fitted and prepared our Hearts with prayers and thanksgiving, to offer up to him as Incense upon his Holy Altar; who hath helped us through many Tribulations, and shed abroad his love in our Hearts, and made us livingly to partake together of the Springs of Life and Salvation in our Bosoms, and keep us in a true unity of Spirit, as Heirs of the same Grace, that our Prayers were not hindred; but with *Jacob* in that Seed, we came often to know a wrestling in our inward Man, and a prevailing with God for a Blessing.

And the end of my dear Companions Labour, Travail and pure Breathings is accomplished, in her final Testimony who is visibly gone, and taken from me, to her sweet Eternal Rest, where no more Afflictions either in Body or Mind can surprize her: But as her terrestrial Body is gone to its

Center from whence it came, unto which it was to return again in the appointed time, ſo her Immortal Soul, in and through Obedience to the Seed Chriſt Jeſus in it's redeemed State, is gathered into a glorious Manſion and everlaſting Habitation, where the Reſurrection unto Heavenly Happineſs ſtands ſure, on the Foundation and Rock of Ages and Generations: She was ſometimes under Fears of this great paſſage from Mortality (as ſome have been in antient time) but my Travail in Spirit with her Spirit was, That through the living Faith ſhe had received in Chriſt the Author of it, ſhe might keep ſtill ſtedfaſt, and fight the good Fight of Faith, and Victory ſhould be obtained, which was in God's ſeaſon manifeſted in her inward Man; and afterwards ſhe ſpoke forth pure Acknowledgments of the ſame, to our great refreſhing, ſeveral Weeks before her departure, giving me comfortably to underſtand, That the Work of Redemption was wrought and compleated in her, and all doubts and fears removed. And now ſhe waited to be diſſolved, and to be with Chriſt that redeemed and ſanctified her, and put on Righteouſneſs as a Garment, and Salvation as a Lamp that burneth; ſo that as a wiſe Virgin ſhe was prepared to enter into the Bridegroom's Chamber of Eternal Joy, and Praiſes filled her Veſſel, while ſhe had any Strength in her Veſſels remaining, and her Eye was to that heavenly Family out of all the Families of the Earth, where ſhe would gladly be rejoycing with her tender Off-ſpring and Relations gone before her (as often her Expreſſion were) to be with them.

All viſible Helps and outward Enjoyments failing, ſhe had the Lord for her Portion, and kept in a Poſſeſſion of that heavenly Treaſure layed up, which never fails, and fed upon that living Bread and Wine of the Kingdom, which now ſhe is in the more full enjoyment of. She ſpoke

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ſpoke often of the ſurrounding of the Lambs Glory with her, and ſhe was compaſſed about with Salvation and the bleſſed Truth as a Girdle, and the Lambs Glory ſprung up to her laſt moment, and ſhe was ſenſible, in expreſſion, to the laſt few hours, and ſaid to me (as formerly ſhe often uſed) *Love, pray for me.* And the never failing Sacrifice which God prepares ſprung up in me, which the Lord, our tender heavenly Father, hath heard and anſwered; and now the time being near, and her Glaſs being run, the Silver-thred cut, and the Golden Pitcher broken, ſhe then gave up the Ghoſt, in a ſweet ſtill manner, on the ſecond day of the 9th Month, 1694. about the 7th Hour at Night, in the boſom of her Maid who waited on her, I being on the other ſide the Bed, beholding her in the Bowels of Divine Love; ſo he that gave her me, in his appointed time took her to himſelf. She lay as a Flour in the Coffin, as if ſhe were aſleep; ſhe lived in ſweetneſs and cleanneſs in her life time, and was ſweet at her later end; and now I am left in ſeparation from her viſible Body, but I am ſtill with her in a ſpiritual Union in the heavenly Place, and my labour is to keep in godly Patience and true contentedneſs in every exerciſe I am yet to paſs through, for his abundant Love and Power hath kept me hitherto, ſurpaſſing what I can expreſs; and the Life that I now live is by Faith in the Son of God, in which living Faith I wait to perſevere and be preſerved to the end of my appointed time, that I may live in obedience to the Honour and Glory of him who is God over all, and hath called and choſen me to bring forth Fruits to his Praiſe and Glory, who is worthy for ever, *Amen.*

And now, dear Friends, I ſhall further proceed in my mournful Relation: On the fourth day of the 9th Month, 1694. being the firſt day of the Week, my dear Wife was buried in the Meeting-houſe yard in *Lancaſter*, being the firſt Corps there Interred, and was accompanied with the

Chief of that Town, and the generality of Friends, ſeveral hundreds, in company, ſo that in Teſtimonies and on other Accounts, things were to the great ſatisfaction of both Friends and others. So the Truth is precious in all who wait to be guided by it; and our God ſhall have the Praiſe in all his Works for ever and evermore, *Amen.*

And as to her Offspring left behind, ſhe had a tender regard and a holy concern for them, that each particular, through the Grace of God, might be gathered home to the true Sheepfold, and Heavenly Shepherd, Chriſt Jeſus, and laboured in Spirit with many pure Breathings and Heavenly Prayers for them, which ſhall not return in vain: And her Exhortation to them that were with her, and her Travel in Spirit for thoſe not preſent on her Dying-bed was, *That they might walk humbly before the Lord their Creator, and watch againſt all the Evil Temptations of this World, the Fleſh, the Vanity and Luſts thereof; that no Pride, Vain-Glory or Intemperance, they might be Captivated with, but abiding in the holy fear of the Lord, which makes the Heart clean, all Evil would be ſuppreſſed, and ſlain upon the Croſs in them; and Humility, Righteouſneſs, Meekneſs of Spirit and Holineſs, ſhould grow in them, and not only be a comly Garment to them, but a never failing portion:* Which ſhe begged of the Lord for them, and which was in her Eye, more than all viſible Enjoyments, knowing aſſuredly all things will fail, but heavenly Treaſure is that Pearl of great price, which will never fail.

And ſhe travelled in Spirit, that they might be kept in ſubjection and true Obedience to their Father, which (ſhe often ſaid) would bring a Bleſſing from on high upon them; for ſhe was right ſenſible of his true Care, and the many Tribulations and deep Trials he had paſs'd through, and the Lord in the end would give him a Reward, and Crown him with Eternal Glory.

Thus,

Thus, in a ſenſible feeling of the Lord's Power and Goodneſs upon my Spirit, I bear record how it was with this my dear and tender Companion in her Life and Death, who is now gone before us, and we wait to follow after, and to obtain a ſhare in the ſame celeſtial Happineſs with her, in the Manſion prepared for all the Faithful.

This is for a Memorial of her who lives for ever.

So the Lord who reigns over the Families of *Jacob*, and works all things together for the good of thoſe that truly Fear, Love, Serve, and Obey him; to him be the Glory and Praiſe aſcribed, who is worthy for ever, *Amen*.

A few Words, by way of Remembrance of my Dear Mother, Mary Watſon.

Dear Friends.

WHereſoever this may come, I finding it as a weight upon my Spirit, and a Duty which I ought to perform to ſay ſomething by way of Remembrance, concerning my dear and wel-beloved Mother, who endured the hard pains of Travel for me, and brought me into this World, and Nurſed me at her Breaſt: She being brought near the Gates of Death ſo moſt that beheld her at that day, and then did the beloved of her Soul manifeſt himſelf unto her, and made her willing to put off, and part with many things which ſhe thought ſtood in the way; and often in her Life-time, her Expreſſions were to me, how dearly ſhe had bought me, and what need I had to anſwer her Love

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and Care which was over me, with the reſt of the Fruit of her Body ſonly : : And I, being all that am left, the firſt of her Labours, many times I have been concerned by reaſon I was not preſent with her, when ſhe was upon her Dying-Bed : But her Care and Love was over me, as I perceive ſhe did expreſs.

And this I can ſay, She was never wanting in reproving of Sin in the leaſt appearance in any of us ; her Soul loathing and abhorring all manner of Evil wherever it was, either in Servants or Children ; and many of her Servants bleſs the Everlaſting God, that ever they came under her Roof on her behalf, being as a tender Nurſing-Mother, one whom the Lord had indued with Power from on high, Nouriſhing, Comforting, Strengthening, exhorting and building up in the moſt Holy Faith, training up her Children in the way they ſhould walk, and I hope moſt of them will not depart from Chriſt.

And for my own part, I have been, as it were raiſed from the very brink of the Grave, and I am as one of the Monuments of the Lord's Mercy, deſiring that Day may never be forgot by me. And when I was in my greateſt Calamity, the Thoughts of her from whence I came, was as Marrow to my Bones, bleſſing the Lord on her behalf, That he was pleas'd to ſuffer me to ſpring from ſuch a Root, which brought Honour to his great Name, and the deſire of my Heart and Soul is, That we that are her Branches, who are yet left behind, may receive of the ſame Sap and Virtue from Chriſt the Root, which will be in us as a Well of Water ſpringing up unto Eternal Life. And it is the Travel of my Spirit in the love of my Heavenly Father, that all Parents would carefully admoniſh, inſtruct and reprove their Children, as ſhe did, which would obtain a Bleſſing from the Lord God upon the Obedient, and it will ſtand as a Witneſs againſt the Diſobedient and Rebellious, leaving them without excuſe, and add to their Peace and Satisfaction

in their own Bosoms, who have so discharged their Duty to their Children.

My dear Mother, tho' but weak of Body, yet formerly was much given to fasting on Religious Accounts, and spending much of her time in private Retirements, fervent Prayers, and praising the Lord, delighting much in Meditations, and like *Mary*, that Christ said, *had chosen that better part*, which can never be taken from her; and whilst she had Strength of Body to keep the Meetings, had a word in season suitable to the States and Conditions of many, and a good Instrument in the Lord's Hand to the keeping things sweet, and in good order, relating to Church-Affairs; Father *Wastie* being a suitable Help-meet to her in spiritual Affairs, and tender over her weak Body, and my Soul loves him in the Heavenly Life which will over-ballance all Earthly Treasure.

I might say much of this my dear and tender Mother, how she spent her time in days that are past, and years that are gone, in Supplication, Fasting, Prayer and Alms, not willing to eat her Morsel alone, but distributing freely to those that wanted, and still with that privacy, that, as it's said, (*The Left Hand should not know what the Right Hand did,*) giving little Sleep to her Eyes, or Slumber to her Eyelids until she had found a place for the God of *Jacob* to dwell in; and when she had found him whom her Soul loved, she kept upon her Watch-Tower, being ready to enter the Bride-Grooms Chamber at what hour he pleas'd to call.

O the remembrance of this my dear and tender Mother, bows my Heart in Humility, and tenders my Soul, causing me to say, O! *thou God of the Righteous grant, that we that are her Offspring, with all thy Flock, may so walk, as that we may receive a part in that everlasting Reward which she hath obtained.*

Oh! the loss of so dear and tender a Mother, (which I have with my dear Sisters, who beheld her upon her dying Bed,) is more than I can sufficiently express; and though we Mourn, yet not as without hope, but still my Breathings are, that I with them, and they with me, may be kept faithful to the end of our days, that so we may receive our Penny, and our God shall have the Praise over all, for he is truly worthy, saith my Soul, henceforth and for evermore, *Amen.*

Elizabeth Mole.

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